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Application : 09750304	**Examiner :** Bello	**GAU :** 2633
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TECHNIQUE FOR OPTICALLY CONVERTING WAVELENGTHS

IN A MULTI-WAVELENGTH SYSTEM

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This patent application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. 09750316 (Attorney Docket No. 57983-000015, Client Reference No. 12922RO), filed concurrently with this patent application, and which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

10 This patent application is also related to U.S. Patent Application No. 09749946 (Attorney Docket No. 57983-000018, Client Reference No. 12946RO), filed concurrently with this patent application, and which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to optical wavelength conversion and, more particularly, to a technique for optically converting wavelengths in a

20 multi-wavelength system.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

All-optical wavelength conversion is an important feature of multi-wavelength optical systems such as

25 wavelength-switching networks. Solutions to provide all-optical wavelength conversion have been studied to a great extent in the context of wavelength-switching, because they simplify network management, and provide superior blocking performance (see B. Ramamurthy and B.

30 Mukherjee, "Wavelength-conversion in WDM networking", IEEE Journal on Selected Areas on Communications, vol. 16, pages 1061-1073, September 1998). These solutions